

# **Making Stereo Cards**

**How to make elegant stereo  
cards from digital images**

**A workshop by Steve & Suzanne Hughes of  
the Atlanta Stereographic Association  
presented for the**

**NSA 2006 Convention  
Miami Florida  
July 13, 2006**

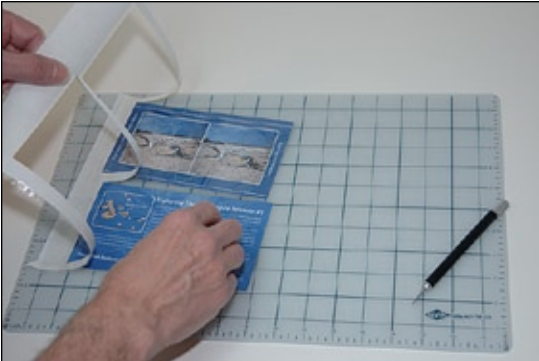
## Pasting up a Stereo Card



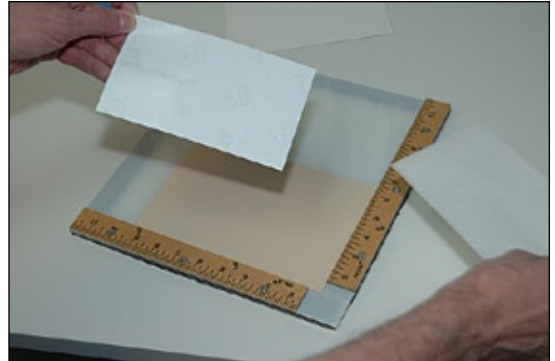
Place the back and front in machine. Slowly crank until through machine. If making more than one, don't cut the 1st one.



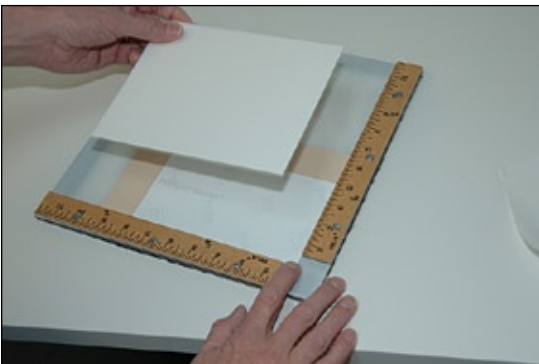
Using cutting mat & sharp Xacto knife, carefully cut the front and back out. A light easy touch with a single motion is best.



Gently remove the extra adhesive. Keep clear overlay in place to protect the image. Cut all cards at once.



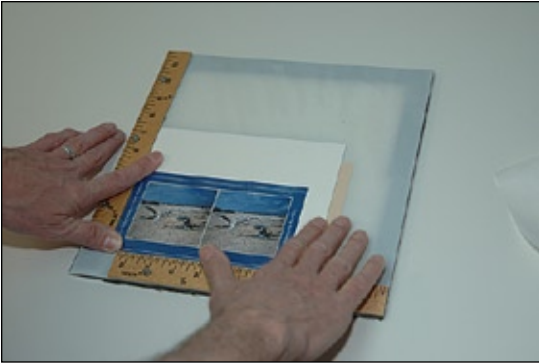
Put clean paper on the frame. Peel backing from front and holding the card by one corner, align in frame, face down.



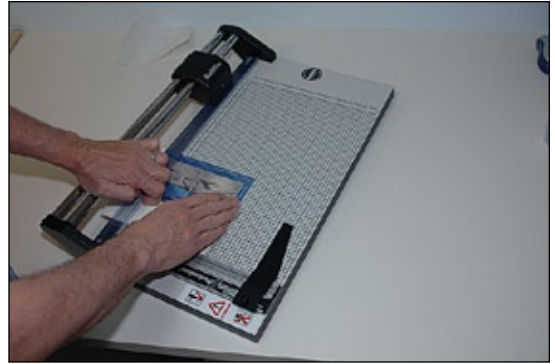
Holding the front in place with one finger, lower the card onto the front adhesive letting the card press against frame edges.



Turn the frame. Peel backing from back image and place the back on the frame, align it in the alignment frame.



Carefully place the card and front onto the adhesive on the back.  
Press it in place being careful not to damage the front.



Trim each of the four edges to make the card the correct size.  
Only cut by pulling the blade toward you.

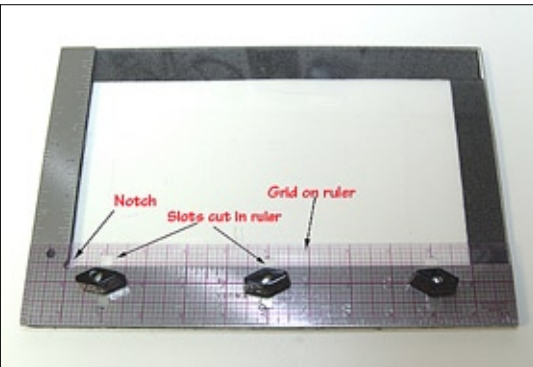


Round the corners to finish the card. The handheld rounders  
work, but are harder to use and won't last as long.

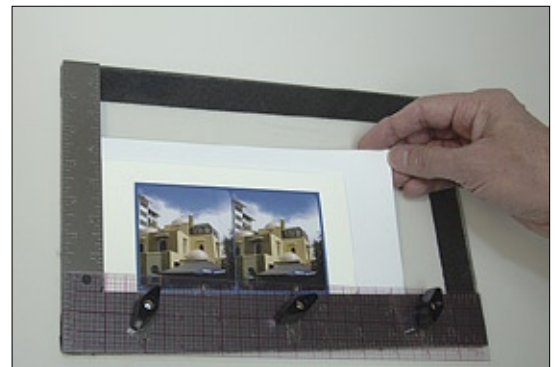


Remove the protective film from both sides, inspect and remove  
any stray glue. Insert finished card into the transparent sleeve.

## Pasting a Single Image Card



Precision Alignment Frame: Notch allows card to sit flat; Grid  
lines allow precision vertical spacing.



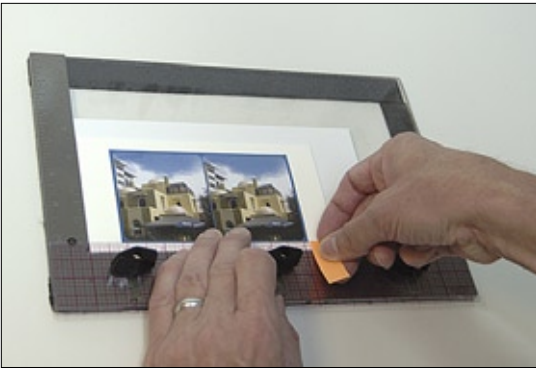
Keep adding paper under the card blank until the image is just  
at the height of the ruler.



Adjust the ruler until you have the desired vertical placement.  
Lock down the ruler when it's in place.



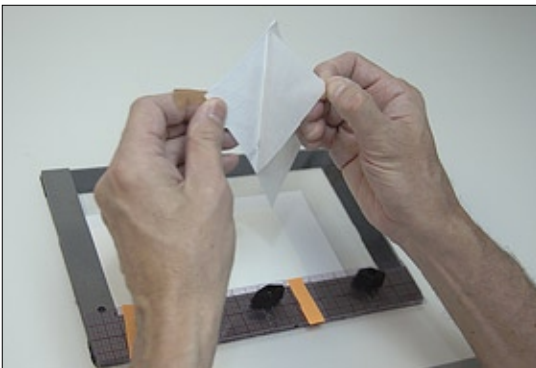
Use a ruler to set the horizontal position or "eyeball" it.



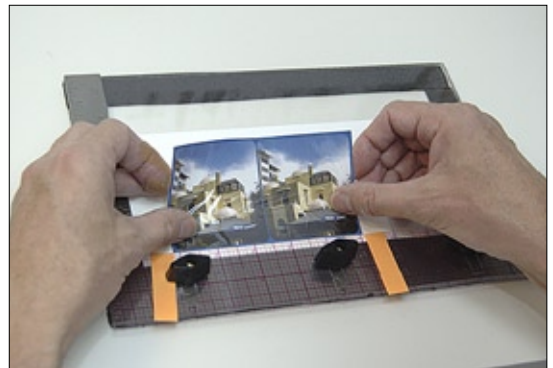
Use a "Post-It" flag to mark the position of the image.



Mark the other end in the same way. You now have a jig for making this card.

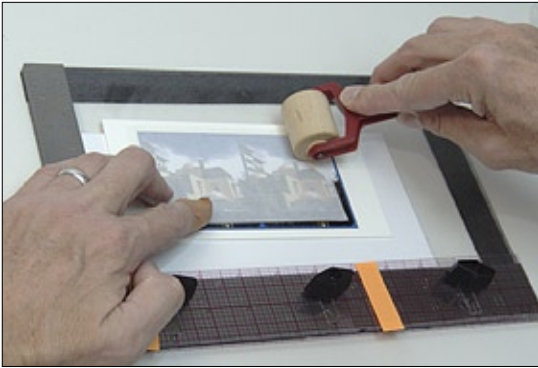


Carefully remove the backing from the glued image.

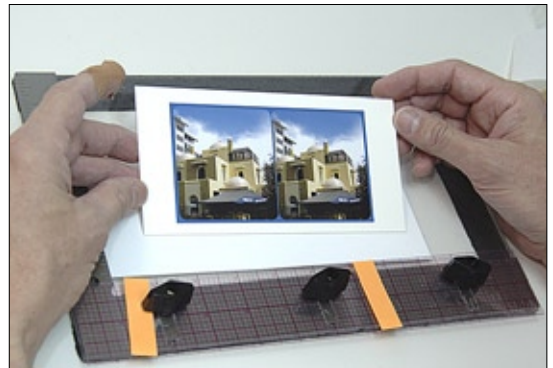


Put bottom edge of image against the ruler centering it between the "flags". Slowly lower onto card using a rolling motion.





Put a piece of paper over the image and press or roll firmly to set the glue.



The card is done. Since your jig is all lined up for this card, you are set to make another copy just like this one!

## Pasting Separate Chips



Make a 4x6 or 4x7 print with both images and cut lines. Window should already be set. Glue it and cut the chips out.



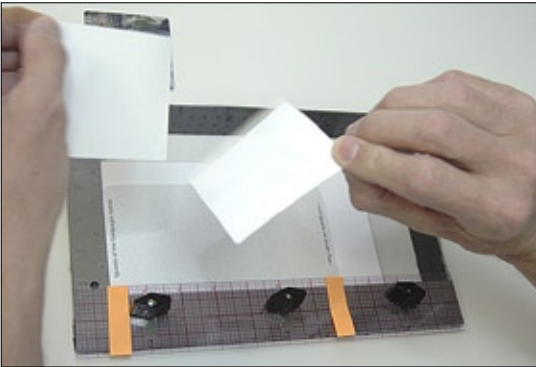
After placing clean paper, and the fully glued front and back card on the frame, roughly position each chip into position.



Set the center spacing so there is about 3 inches between the near points. Use the center of the card as the middle.



Mark the outside edges of each of the chips. Check the vertical placement and secure the ruler in place.



Remove the glue and place both chips using the ruler and the flags to position them.



Complete card and place in sleeve. This technique merges modern computer and traditional card making.

## Cost of Preferred Tools

Item	Example Source	~ Cost
15 inch RotaTrim Professional trimmer	Art & Craft stores, photo stores	\$250
Lassco Model 20 corner rounder with 1/4 inch die	speedpress.com or specialty office store	\$150
Xyron 900	wilde-ideas.com or craft store	\$70
Alignment Frame	You build it	\$20
Precision Alignment Frame	You build it	\$20

## Constructing an Alignment Frame

### Material List

Item	Source
12 x 12 inch 1/4 inch plastic square	Home Depot or Lowe's
3/16 inch thick yard stick	Wal-Mart
12x12 inch sheet of Mylar	Craft Store
4 feet of 1/8 inch or thicker 1 inch wide self adhesive felt	Home Depot or Lowe's
(6) 6-32 or 8-32 stainless steel machine screws 1/2 to 5/8 inch long with nuts	Home Depot or Lowe's

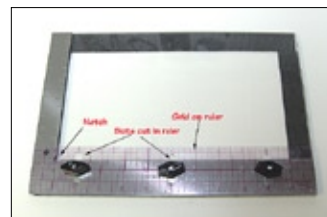
1. Home Depot or Lowe's both sell clear plastic sheet under a range of trade names like "Lucite", "Plexiglas" or "Lexan". You will have to buy a bigger sheet so go on a less busy day and get them to cut it to size for you. Get at least 1/4 inch thick material. Thicker is better but 1/4 is fine. Sand the edges of the sheet.
2. Buy a yard stick from Wal-Mart. It needs to be at least 3/16 inch thick. Cut two pieces 10 3/8 inches long out of it.
3. Place one piece of the yard stick on the plastic square and clamp it down tightly against the bottom and left edges. Then drill three evenly spaced holes through the yard stick and the plastic square. Remove the yard stick piece.
4. Place the Mylar square, it's used by quilters and easy to find at craft stores, on the plastic square. Drill or cut matching holes in the Mylar. Then put the yard stick back on. Put the screws through the plastic, Mylar and yard stick piece with the screw heads on the bottom of the plastic square. Tighten them down.
5. Place the other piece of yard stick on the plastic square and use a carpenter's square or artist's triangle to get it square with the first piece. Clamp it down.
6. Drill three holes through the second piece. Secure it with the other three screws.
7. Place the felt all the way around the outside bottom edge of the plastic square. You may need to cut out small pieces to clear the screw heads.
8. Check to make sure the two pieces of ruler are square and adjust them if necessary.

## Constructing a Precision Alignment Frame

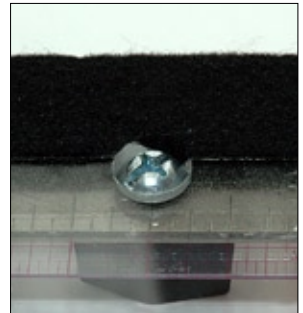
### Material List

Item	Source
12 x 12 or 8 x 12 inch 1/4 inch plastic square	Home Depot or Lowe's
8x12 steel Carpenter's Squire	Home Depot or Lowe's
"C Thru" Graph Ruler 18 inch long and 2 inch wide. Thick is good!	Craft Store
4 feet of 1/8 inch or thicker 1 inch wide self adhesive felt	Home Depot or Lowe's
3 1/4-20 5/8 inch Pan head screws	Home Depot or Lowe's
3 1/4 nylon or plastic wing nuts or threaded knobs	Home Depot or Lowe's

1. Home Depot or Lowe's both sell clear plastic sheet under a range of trade names like "Lucite", "Plexiglas" or "Lexan". You will have to buy a bigger sheet so go on a less busy day and get them to cut it to size for you. Get at least 1/4 inch thick material. Thicker is better but 1/4 is fine. Sand the edges of the sheet.



2. Using a round file, file out a notch in the inside corner of the square if it doesn't already have one.
3. Then drill three, 13/64 holes through the long arm of the carpenter's square about .4 inch from the inside edge. Place them at 2 inches, 6 inches and 10 inches from the left outside edge. Use the grid ruler to measure for these holes.
4. Use a 1/4-20 tap to put threads in the three holes in the square. If you have to buy this, buy a drill and tap set. It costs about the same as just the tap and guarantees they will match. Note: be careful to get the holes threaded straight.
5. Drill slightly larger holes through the plastic square using the holes in the square as a guide. Make sure all the holes line up!
6. Take the steel carpenter's square and glue it to the lower left corner of the plastic sheet using framing glue or its equivalent. This is the paper thin glue that comes with a removable paper backing. Make sure none of the glue shows.
7. Place the grid ruler on top of the carpenter's square with the left end even with the left outside edge of the square and mark the three holes. Starting .3 inch from the inside edge cut three rectangular slots a little over .2 inch wide by 1.3 inches long. This is hard to do and requires a sharp X-acto knife and a lot of patience!
8. Drill holes half way into the back side of the plastic sheet for the heads of the screws. You can skip this step if you use thick felt to protect the screw heads. If you use thick felt, you may need to use longer 4-20 screws.
9. Insert the 3 4-20 screws from the back of the plastic sheet and screw them into the ruler. Be careful not to over tighten them or you will break the plastic. Just snug is good.
10. Place the felt around the outside edge on the bottom of the plastic sheet.
11. Place the grid ruler over the screws on the front and use the wing nuts to hold it on. It should move freely when the wing nuts are loose. If it does not, open up the slots a little.



## Websites for Groups Sharing Images

- **Amateur Photographic Exchange Club (APEC)** - Stereo view exchange club <http://home.earthlink.net/~pgwhacker/APEC/apec.html>
- **Digital Stereoview Exchange Club (DSEC)** - Stereo view exchange club for 'digital format' <http://www.skep.com/3D/exchange.htm>